

legislation enacted in 1983, grassroots organizations have joined forces with federal, state and local government agencies to identify new opportunities to provide for public enjoyment of a trail that follows "Our Nation's River." Protection of our river—which is part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed—and its historic sites and natural areas must be a top priority for our region in the years ahead.

The National Park Service requires sufficient tools to help facilitate public involvement with this National Scenic Trail, which is why I support full funding of this effort under the Service's budget.

I congratulate the community of grassroots supporters of the Potomac Heritage Trail including the Potomac Heritage Partnership, Prince George's County government, the Accokeek Foundation and many other local groups and individuals. They are leading the regional effort to encourage conservation, historic preservation and sustainable commerce along the Potomac River corridor. They deserve our full support for their efforts.

**SALUTING PATIENT
APPRECIATION DAY**

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our nation's doctors and patients. The Genesee County Medical Society has proclaimed today, and the third Tuesday of every October thereafter, as "Patient Appreciation Day." At events around Genesee County, doctors are expressing their gratitude to their patients and are recognizing the great benefits of the doctor/patient relationship. I commend their efforts to reach out to patients and share their gratitude.

At a time when the news is filled with negative stories about managed care, I believe Patient Appreciation Day is a positive way to recognize all the good things that are happening in our nation's health care system. Patient Appreciation Day is a time to mark the important role that patients play in making our nation's health care system the best in the world. It is a day when doctors take an extra moment with their patients to express their gratitude and celebrate the opportunities they are given to provide their life-giving services.

It is my greatest hope that the Genesee County Medical Society has started a nationwide trend and that doctors across the country join in celebrating "Patient Appreciation Day" in the future. The Genesee County Medical Society should be applauded for their positive efforts toward improving the lives of the patients they serve.

HONORING DR. RICHARD BERTKEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Bertken, a native

of the San Joaquin Valley. Dr. Bertken returned to Fresno after completing his studies at USC, UCLA, The George Washington University, and Stanford University. He was one of the first medical practitioners with the University of California San Francisco Medical School, Fresno. Dr. Bertken has officially retired from his government position with Veterans Administration Medical Center, but will continue to see patients as a consultant.

Dr. Bertken achieved state of the art therapeutic modalities. Many patients with Rheumatological and Immunological problems awaited his expertise. In a short time, his patients graduated from wheel chairs to crutches, to full ambulation; for many, a return to full employment and to all, an improved quality of life.

Dr. Bertken considered the needs of the whole person, displaying genuine concern. He is dedicated not to just lessen pain but to eliminate it and prevent disability. Dr. Bertken is a strong patient advocate, seeking access to the most recent approved medications and treatments for his patients.

With his enthusiasm and positive attitude, he empowers patients under his care to take an active participation in their treatment plan through education and self-management. His vision for patients living quality productive lives include not just our veteran population, but also those he treats at the University Medical Center where he practices with the UCSF program.

As a leader he has established a culture of integrity for both patients and staff, an accountable and truthful standard of practice in health care delivery.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. Bertken for his service to the community and his patients. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Richard Bertken many more years of continued success.

**HONORING REV. GUSTA BOOKER,
JR.**

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rev. Gusta Booker, Jr. for his 31 years of service at Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church of Houston.

For more than 3 decades, Reverend Booker has addressed the needs of the Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church's congregation. In celebration of the church's 31st Anniversary, the congregation held a "Celebration of Love Service" this month followed by "A Love Fellowship Reception." The growth and success that Greater St. Matthew has experienced under Reverend Booker's leadership reveals a Pastor who is truly connected to his community.

Reverend Booker is the youngest of nine born to the late Reverend Gusta Booker, Sr. and the late Mrs. Gussie Booker in Columbus, Texas. Reverend Booker married Theola Massie in 1964, and they are the affectionate parents of three children, Ronald, Gusta III, and Alita Corine; two daughters-in-law, Valree

Booker and Nicole Booker; two grandsons Ronald, Jr. and Joshua; and one granddaughter, Peyton Nicole.

Pastor Booker was called to the ministry in 1967, and later founded Greater St. Matthew "Southeast" located at 7701 Jutland Street. In 1994 he founded Greater St. Matthew "Southwest" at 14919 South Main Street, giving rise to the congregation's concept "One Church in Two Locations." In 1995, the Lindler-Booker Family Life Center was constructed.

Reverend Booker shares his insight and experiences with those who seek knowledge and guidance. He has published two books: *After the Honeymoon* and *Living Beyond the Pain*. His television and radio ministries can be seen and heard in Houston, Beaumont, and Austin.

While Reverend Booker's religious and spiritual obligations to his growing congregation have always been paramount, as a community leader, he has shared his faith and free time as Founder and First Moderator of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, past President of Central State Convention of Texas, and past Chairman of the Christian Education Board of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his 31 years as Pastor at Greater St. Matthew, Reverend Booker's intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity has served his congregations well. He brings tireless energy and compassion to each of his endeavors, whether it's as a Pastor, community leader, or friend. His contributions to the ministry and his energy in addressing the needs of his congregation and surrounding community are truly commendable.

**MATTHEW NONNEMACHER
HONORED**

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 20, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable young boy from my District in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—Matthew Nonnemacher. Matthew is only eleven years old, but he will be a participant this Friday in the White House Conference on Philanthropy. While most boys and girls his age are more concerned with getting their homework done, Matthew has been helping his disadvantaged neighbors.

Last year, Matthew's fourth grade teacher at St. Joseph Memorial School, Terri Smith, gave her students an assignment to draw a picture of the one wish they would like to be granted if they were on top of the world. Matthew's picture depicted him giving money to poor people. Later, after having asked his parents what would be the best way to help the poor, Matthew wrote a letter to the editor of his local newspaper, the Hazleton Standard Speaker, with the same question. Matthew received numerous letters suggesting projects such as food drives, clothing collections, and a dime drive. Matthew changed the latter suggestion to a penny drive, because he thought it would be more fun, and set an ambitious goal of collecting one million pennies, or \$10,000, a donate to the United Way of Greater Hazleton.

With the help of then-United Way of Greater Hazleton Executive Director James Settle,